

SCHOOL RISK ASSESSMENT

COVID-19 HomeTesting Programme for Primary School/Nursery



This risk assessment must be read and used in conjunction with the [schools opening arrangements during COVID-19 general risk assessment](#) and tailored to reflect specific arrangements within school.
Text highlighted in yellow relates to **new** amendments to the content.

PART A. ASSESSMENT DETAILS:

Area/task/activity: COVID-19 Home Testing Programme for Staff in Primary School/Nursery

Location of activity: Stepping Stones Short Stay School / Home testing

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| School name: Address & Contact details: | Stepping Stones Short Stay School Bowerham Road Lancaster LA1 4HT | Name of Person(s) undertaking Assessment: | Alison Dodd |
| | | Signature(s): | <i>Alison Dodd</i> |
| Headteacher (Name/Title): | Alison Dodd | Date of Assessment: | 11.3.21 |
| Signature: | <i>Alison Dodd</i> | Planned Review Date: | May 2021 |
| How communicated to staff: | Staff meeting and via email. | Date communicated to staff: | Staff Meeting 16.3.21 |

PART B. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL MEASURES:

| List of significant hazards (something with the potential to cause harm) | Who might be harmed | Type of harm | Existing controls (actions already taken to control the risk - include procedure for the task/activity where these are specified) |
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| Changes to official COVID-19 guidance and advice | Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors, household members | Transmission of the virus leading to ill health or potential death | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The content of this risk assessment has been reviewed using the NHS COVID-19 National Testing Programme, Rapid Testing of Education Staff and Secondary Age Pupils at Home 'How to Guide', the Clinical Standard Operating Procedure Rapid Asymptomatic Testing of Education Workforce at Home (V 1) published 23.02.21 and the NHS Test & Trace step-by-step |

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| | | | <p>guide for COVID-19 self-testing all available on the Governments Primary School Document Sharing Platform;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School regularly refers to official advice from the DfE, PHE, HS&Q and HR; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coronavirus (Covid-19): guidance for schools and other educational settings ○ LCC Schools HR guidance ○ LCC Health & Safety COVID-19 web page • Headteacher or other senior person keeps up to date with official COVID-19 Guidance and informs employees/school arrangements as required. |
| Failure to obtain consent/lack of participation | Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors, household members | Transmission of the virus leading to ill health or potential death | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School has issued the standard letter to all staff explaining the benefits of and arrangements for testing and seeking consent; • For self-testing, consent is implied by an individual taking the test kit, reading the instructions, understanding the implications and other information provided by school/nursery and going ahead with the test; • Testing is not mandatory for staff however participation in testing is strongly encouraged by the school in order to identify asymptomatic individuals, reduce the spread of the virus and protect colleagues and the wider community; • Staff are aware that they can stop participating in the testing arrangements at any point. |

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| Inappropriate Sharing of Information | Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors, household members | Misuse of personal information and breaches of GDPR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff have been advised to read the school's privacy notice to enable them to understand what will happen to their data. Concerns are discussed with staff around participation and data protection as required; The test kit log and test results register are separate documents so that those signing for test kits cannot see the results of their colleagues; Care is taken when handling personal information to ensure all necessary precautions are taken and that it is not shared with anyone who is not directly involved in dealing with the test results; Care is taken when entering and saving personal information electronically. School already has appropriate arrangements in place for this from other areas of work; Arrangements for dealing with any breaches of GDPR are understood and adhered to by the Headteacher and School Business Manager or Bursar. |
| Damaged or stolen LFD kits resulting in staff not being tested or an incorrect test result provided | Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors, household members | Transmission of the virus leading to ill health or potential death | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On arrival at school the lateral flow device (LFD) kit delivery will be stored securely to prevent unauthorised access; Kits will be stored indoors where a temperature of between 2 and 30 degrees can be maintained; Once test kits have been distributed staff are responsible for ensuring these are stored appropriately at their home in a safe place away from children and at room temperature or in a cool dry place (2 – 30 degrees); |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff have been advised that kits must not be stored in direct sunlight or in the fridge or freezer. |
| Poor arrangements for the distribution of LFD kits | Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors, household members | Transmission of the virus leading to ill health or potential death | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social distancing is maintained at all times during the distribution of kits to staff. Staff members coordinating and handing out test kits wear an appropriate face covering at all times and maintain a 2-metre distance from staff coming to collect their test kits; • When handing out kits the issuer will record who takes the kit in the 'kit log' using the test kit log template available on the Document Sharing Platform. |
| Poor administration and implementation of testing programme | Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors, household members | Transmission of the virus leading to ill health or potential death | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School has allocated a staff member to the role of Covid Coordinator (Dionne Davies) who will support the following functions; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quality and risk management of home testing programme ○ Communicating with stakeholders e.g. staff ○ Ensuring staff are given the right instructions and that they sign for the test kits using the test kit log; ○ Monitoring testing uptake, reporting rates and void rates; ○ Reporting incidents to the DfE and ensuring they are investigated; ○ Storing and reporting any required data; ○ Reordering of test kits when required; |

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| | | | <p>School has allocated a staff member to the role of Registration Assistant Dionne Davies who will support the following functions (can be the same person as Covid Coordinator if needed);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Distributing the correct number of test kits to staff and managing the schedule for the distribution of subsequent kits; ○ Inputting test results from staff into the school/nursery test results register/log; ○ Sending reminders to participants on test days to take a test and to communicate their results online or by phone, and to the school/nursery; ○ Responding to staff questions; ○ Working with the Covid Coordinator to manage the stock of test kits. |
| Inadequate Communication | Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors, household members | Transmission of the virus leading to ill health or potential death | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff are aware of who the Schools Covid Coordinator and Registration Assistant (if different) is; ● Staff have been informed that individuals who have had the vaccine should still participate in the asymptomatic testing programme; ● Staff are aware of how to collect test kits and that these kits must be signed for and that the lot number on the box allocated to them is recorded against their name; |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff have been informed that it is a requirement for them to report their test results both to school and to the NHS, whether positive, negative or void. Failure to do so will be noted by the school; • Staff have been advised to contact Alison Dodd if they have an incident whilst testing at home. |
| Lack of Information, Instruction & Training | Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors, household members | Transmission of the virus leading to ill health or potential death | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff in school with specific roles in the testing arrangements (Schools Covid Coordinator and Registration Assistant) have been provided with the information necessary to carry out their roles from the Government guidance provided on the Document Sharing Platform; • Staff have been provided with the most up to date Instructions for Use booklet (current version: plain blue cover, dated 15 January 2021 v 1.3.2); • Staff have been provided with appropriate links to on-line Government guidance to fulfil their training requirements including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduction to Rapid Self Testing ○ NHS YouTube video demonstrating how to carry out a test ○ Step-by-step guide for COVID-19 self-testing. |
| Inadequate preparation prior to taking the LFD test | Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors, household members | Incorrect test results resulting in transmission of the virus leading to ill health or potential death | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff have been provided with the following guidance for administering the LFD tests at home: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If the LFD is stored at home somewhere colder than 15 degrees then it must be moved to a room temperature area for 30 minutes before use; |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To test themselves the evening before attending school/nursery to give the school more time to react in the event of a positive test result; ○ Not to eat or drink for at least 30 minutes before doing the test to reduce the risk of spoiling the test; ○ Prior to carrying out the test, ensure that they have to hand a watch or clock, tissues, a mirror and either hand sanitiser or access to soap and warm running water; ○ Immediately before starting the test, clear, clean and dry a flat surface; ○ Wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds, using soap and warm, running water and dry hands, or use hand sanitiser to prevent the contamination of the test kit. |
| Incorrect use of testing equipment | Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors, household members | Incorrect test results resulting in transmission of the virus leading to ill health or potential death | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All staff have been provided with instructions to ensure correct use of testing equipment including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Following the current version of the Instructions for Use booklet (plain blue cover and dated 15 January 2021 v 1.3.2 or v 1.3.3); ○ Where there are physical/medical issues or they have a very sensitive gag reflex that prohibits the throat swab from being completed successfully, double nasal swabbing can be undertaken; ○ Under circumstances where a nasal swab is not feasible e.g. an individual is prone to nasal bleeds, it is acceptable to swab only the back of the throat; ○ In the event of a nosebleed within 24 hours, swab the other nostril or |

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| | | | <p>wait 24 hours before swabbing;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Never touch the soft, fabric tip of the swab with your hands. If the swab touches anything other than the tonsils or nostril before or after swabbing it will be invalid and should be placed in the waste bag provided and another test completed; ○ Any concerns or injuries must be reported immediately and will be investigated as soon as possible so that arrangements can be put in place to avoid a recurrence; ○ Test strip must not be used if the sealed packaging is damaged; ○ To avoid spilling the liquid in the extraction tube, the extraction tube holder or a small cup should be used. Any spillages will be wiped up with a paper towel and the area appropriately disinfected with household disinfectant; ○ The test strip should be placed on a flat surface and not moved during the test; ○ The test must not be left to develop for longer than 30 minutes as this will make the result void; ○ Staff with Covid-19 symptoms are advised not to carry out an LFD test but to order a test online or visit a test site to take a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test; |
| Positive Test Result | Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors, | Transmission of the virus leading to ill health or | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All staff have been instructed on what action to take in the event of a positive test result including: |

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| | household members | potential death | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The individual and their household and anyone in their support bubble to self-isolate in accordance with current Government guidance; ○ Informing the Covid Coordinator immediately to enable close contacts to be informed as soon as possible; ○ Report the result online or by phone to NHS Test & Trace to receive further guidance on what to do; ○ Undertake a follow up PCR test on the same day or as soon as possible to confirm the result and inform the school of the outcome; ● Staff who have a positive LFD test result will be treated as if they were a positive COVID-19 case in terms of the prevention of infection to others; ● Following a positive LFD test School/Nursery will identify close contacts of the individual in the school setting (excluding household and social contacts outside of school). These contacts will be sent home to self-isolate whilst a confirmatory PCR test is carried out. If the PCR test is positive, close contacts will be required to continue to self-isolate for 10 days as per current Government guidance, including staff that have recently had a positive PCR test for COVID-19 within 90 days; ● Staff who have had the vaccine and have had a positive LFD result or who are identified as a close contact of a positive case are required to self-isolate in line with government guidance; ● If a member of staff has a negative PCR test following a positive LFD test they, their household and close contacts will be able to stop isolating; |

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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff who have recently had a positive PCR test for COVID-19, are likely to have developed immunity and are exempt from testing by both PCR and LFD within 90 days of a positive test, unless they develop symptoms. However, if they choose to participate in the LFD testing programme after completing their self-isolation period and they have a positive LFD test they will be required to self-isolate for a further 10 days or possibly longer if still symptomatic. |
| Negative Test Result | Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors, household members | Transmission of the virus leading to ill health or potential death | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff have been given the following instruction in the event of a negative test result: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A negative result is not a guarantee that they do not have COVID-19; They must continue to strictly follow the control measures set out in the school's general COVID-19 risk assessment including regular handwashing, social distancing and wearing face coverings when required; The Lateral Flow Device testing programme does not replace the current testing policy for those with symptoms. If they are symptomatic (even if they recently had a negative LFD test result), they must still self-isolate immediately according to government guidelines; They are not required to provide proof of a negative test result to attend school or nursery in person as the LFD testing programme is voluntary. |
| Void Test Result | Staff, pupils, visitors, contractors, | Transmission of the virus leading to ill health or | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All staff have been instructed on what action to take in the event of a void test result including: |

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| | household members | potential death | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Repeat the test with a new test kit; ○ If they get a second consecutive void result or they do not have any remaining test kits at home they should undertake a PCR COVID-19 test which can be arranged through the Government website. |
| Inappropriate Disposal of Waste | Staff, household members | Transmission of the virus leading to ill health or potential death | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All staff have been given the following instruction in respect of waste generated from the home testing process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Packaging can be disposed of with general household waste; ○ Once empty the extraction buffer sachet should be placed in the plastic waste bag provided; ○ Once the extraction tube has been used it should be placed in the plastic waste bag along with the swab; ○ Once the test has been completed all the used contents of the kit should be placed in the waste bag provided and disposed of with general household waste. |
| Non-Reporting of incidents/accidents relating to home testing activity | Staff | Potential injury to staff or incorrect results resulting in transmission of the virus leading to ill health or potential death | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All staff have been given the following instruction in the event of an incident or accident during the testing process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Non-clinical incidents during the process of undertaking a test must be reported to the School Covid Coordinator who will record and monitor; ○ Repeated or similar issues, for example, multiple repeat void tests, unclear results, leaking/damaged tubes etc. must be reported to the School Covid Coordinator who will report to the DfE Helpline who will escalate to DHSE for investigation. The time, date and details of the |

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| | | | <p>report will be recorded by the School Covid Coordinator;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Non-clinical issues such as something damaged, missing or difficult to use in the kit must be reported by the individual to the Test & Trace Helpdesk (Tel:119) and also to the School Covid Coordinator: ○ Individuals should contact the Test & Trace Helpdesk (Tel 119) if they are unable to log their results; ○ Clinical incidents which lead to or has the potential to cause harm for example swab breaking in the mouth, bleeding, allergic reaction etc. must be reported on the 'yellow card' coronavirussyellowcard.mhra.gov.uk and also to the School Covid Coordinator. ○ Any immediate medical care must be obtained through the employee's GP or by contacting 111 or 999 as appropriate. |

| PART C: ACTION PLAN Further action / controls required | | | | | | |
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| Hazard | Action required | Person(s) to undertake action? | Priority | Projected time scale | Notes / comments | Date Completed |
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